

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An image sensing apparatus comprising:

a first exposure level calculation device which ~~performs photometry for image sensing to calculate~~ calculates a first exposure level based on a result of photometry performed upon ~~after~~ an image sensing preparation instruction by an image sensing preparation instruction member;

a second exposure level calculation device which calculates a second exposure level of an image signal output after image sensing;

an exposure error calculation device which calculates an exposure error between the first exposure level calculated by said first exposure level calculation device and the second exposure level calculated by said second exposure level calculation device;

~~a determination device which determines whether or not to correct the exposure error in accordance with whether or not said image sensing apparatus, which is in an image sensing operation, satisfies a predetermined condition when said image sensing apparatus is in an auto exposure control mode; and~~

an exposure error correction device which performs a correction operation of the exposure error by using the exposure error calculated by said exposure error calculation device, ~~when it is determined by said determination device to correct the exposure error~~ said image sensing apparatus is in an auto exposure control mode,

wherein said exposure error correction device does not perform the correction operation

when said image sensing apparatus is in at least one of a state in which an exposure correction value is set, a state in which an exposure condition obtained by photometry is held, a state in which a photometry method is set to spot photometry, a state in which a long shutter mode in which an exposure time is longer than a predetermined time period is set, a state in which brightness of an object exceeds a predetermined range, and a state in which an image sensing instruction by an image sensing instruction member is entered after a predetermined time is elapsed after the image sensing preparation instruction is entered.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said image sensing apparatus is in at least one of a state in which an exposure correction value is set, a state in which an exposure condition obtained by photometry is held, a state in which a photometry method is set to spot photometry, and a state in which a long shutter mode is set, said determination device determines not to correct the exposure error.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device determines to correct the exposure error when said image sensing apparatus is set to a state in which a flash is so set so as to emit light, and

when the flash is set to emit light, said exposure error correction device changes a correction width of the exposure error in consideration of elements which cause under exposure.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device determines to correct the exposure error when said image sensing apparatus is in a state in which an image sensing processing start instruction is received from an image sensing start instruction member before an end of a first exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device that starts upon reception of the image sensing preparation

instruction by the image sensing preparation instruction member, and

when the image sensing processing start instruction is received before the end of the first exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device, an image is sensed at an exposure value obtained during the first exposure level calculation processing, said exposure error calculation device calculates the exposure error by using information in the first exposure level calculation processing so as to obtain sensed image at correct exposure, and said exposure error correction device corrects the exposure error of the sensed image by using the exposure error.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the image sensing processing start instruction is received before the end of the first exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device, and said image sensing apparatus is in at least one of a state in which an exposure correction value is set, a state in which an exposure condition obtained by photometry is held, a state in which a photometry method is set to spot photometry, and a state in which a long shutter mode is set, exposure starts after a correct exposure value is calculated at the end of the first exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when said image sensing apparatus is in an operation state in which an exposure state is held upon pressing the image sensing preparation instruction member, and when a state in which an image sensing start instructions member is not pressed is held for not less than a given threshold time after the image sensing preparation instruction member is pressed, said determination device determines not to correct the exposure error.

7. (Currently Amended) An image sensing method comprising:

a processing step of ~~performing photometry for image sensing to calculate~~ calculating a first exposure level based on a result of photometry performed upon after an image sensing preparation instruction by an image sensing preparation instruction member;

a processing step of calculating a second exposure level of an image signal output after image sensing;

a processing step of calculating an exposure error between the first exposure level calculated by said first exposure level calculation step and the second exposure level calculated by said second exposure level calculation step;

~~a processing step of determining whether or not to perform an exposure correction in accordance with whether or not an image sensing apparatus, which is in an image sensing operation, satisfies a predetermined condition when the image sensing apparatus is in an auto exposure control mode;~~ and

a processing step of performing a correction operation of the exposure error by using the exposure error when ~~a determination is made to perform the exposure correction an image sensing apparatus is in an auto exposure control mode.~~

wherein the correction operation is not performed when the image sensing apparatus is in at least one of a state in which an exposure correction value is set, a state in which an exposure condition obtained by photometry is held, a state in which a photometry method is set to spot photometry, a state in which a long shutter mode in which an exposure time is longer than a predetermined time period is set, a state in which brightness of an object exceeds a predetermined range, and a state in which an image sensing instruction by an image sensing instruction member is entered after a predetermined time is elapsed after the image sensing preparation instruction is entered.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium, on which is stored a computer program comprising instructions for causing a computer to execute an image sensing method defined in claim 7.

10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said exposure error correction device does not perform the correction operation of the exposure error when said image sensing apparatus is in a manual exposure control mode.